



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

CHARLES C. MADDOX, ESQ.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS DIVISION
REPORT OF INSPECTION

FIRE AND EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

REPORT NUMBER 03 – 0001FB

OCTOBER 2002

Inspections and Evaluations Division
Mission Statement

The Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Division of the Office of the Inspector General is dedicated to providing District of Columbia (D.C.) Government decision makers with objective, thorough, and timely evaluations and recommendations that will assist them in achieving efficiency, effectiveness and economy in operations and programs. I&E goals are to help ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies; to identify accountability; recognize excellence; and promote continuous improvement in the delivery of services to D.C. residents and others who have a vested interest in the success of the city.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



October 17, 2002

Adrian Thompson
Interim Fire & EMS Chief
Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department
1923 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Suite 201
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chief Thompson:

Enclosed is our *Report of Inspection of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS)*. Comments from FEMS on the 16 findings and 30 recommendations by the inspection team are included in the report. We are pleased to note your agreement with all recommendations. This clearly shows the efforts being made to create a more efficient and well-run FEMS.

Also enclosed are Compliance Forms on which to record and report to this Office any actions you have taken concerning each outstanding recommendation. These forms will assist you in tracking the completion of actions taken by your staff, and will assist this Office in its inspection follow-up activities. We track agency compliance with all agreed-upon recommendations made in our reports of inspection. We request that you and your administrators establish response dates on the forms and advise us of those dates so we can enter them on our copies of the Compliance Forms. We know that in some instances, things beyond your control, such as budget decisions, impact on trying to set specific deadlines. In those instances we request that you assign target dates based on whatever knowledge and experience you have about a particular issue. Please ensure that the Compliance Forms are returned to the OIG by the response date, and that reports of "Agency Action Taken" reflect actual completion, in whole or in part, of a recommended action rather than "planned" action.

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We appreciate the cooperation shown by you and your employees during the inspection and we hope to continue in a cooperative relationship during the upcoming follow-up period.

If you have questions or require assistance in the course of complying with our recommendations, please contact me or Alvin Wright, Jr., Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations at (202) 727-5052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles C. Maddox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.
Inspector General

Enclosure/Attachment

CCM/AW/jcs

cc: See **Distribution**

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ACRONYMS

ALS	Advanced Life Support
BLS	Basic Life Support
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CQI	Continuing Quality Improvement
DOH	Department of Health
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMSB	Emergency Medical Services Bureau
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EMT/B	Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
EMT/P	Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic
FEMS	Fire and Emergency Medical Services
MPD	Metropolitan Police Department
NFPA	National Fire Prevention Association
OEHMS	Office of Emergency Health and Medical Services
PEC	Paramedic Engine Company
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point